



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
UNITED NATIONS MANAGEMENT AND REFORM

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

September 21, 2011

Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka  
Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Public Information  
DC-1, Room 0530  
United Nations  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Under-Secretary Akasaka:

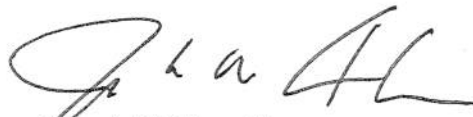
In an effort to make the United Nations budgeting process more transparent to member states and individuals around the world who benefit from the United Nations programs, we are requesting that Fifth Committee formal meetings be made public via live webcasting or on-demand through a link on the Fifth Committee homepage similar to what is already done for the Security Council, Economic and Social Council and other General Assembly sessions. The formal meetings of the Fifth Committee are designated "open" meetings, and are no less important than meetings of other UN bodies.

The Secretary-General has stated that mandate delivery, transparency and accountability are cornerstones of his administration. The webcasting of Fifth Committee formal meetings demonstrate the Secretary General's and the UN's commitment to these principles. It would provide all member states a window into the discussions about how member states support mandates, how their contributions are being utilized, and how the institution is responding to the calls for accountability, effectiveness and efficiency. Furthermore, these webcasts will provide member states, and their constituents, assurances that the organization and member states are partners in ensuring that the institution's resources are managed effectively to achieve critical mandates in the areas of development, human rights, and peace and security.

Webcasting of United Nations formal meetings is not new; therefore it should take little time to institute. While we believe that live webcasts would be much more valuable to local and international audiences, if there are technical or financial constraints that make it impractical, on-demand video could be considered as an alternative.

We strongly believe that management and resource decisions by member states must be made public to ensure that the United Nations and its member states are accountable in their efforts to promote international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples. Broadcasting Fifth Committee formal meetings would demonstrate openness and transparency of the UN budget process. I trust that you will quickly consider this request and provide an opportunity for member States and others interested in the work of the Organization to understand the financial and management decisions being made to implement UN mandates beginning with the main session of the sixty-sixth session.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J M Torsella', written in a cursive style.

Joseph M. Torsella  
Ambassador

CC: Chairman Fifth Committee, Ambassador Tommo Monthe  
USYG DGACM, Shabaan Shabaan  
USYG DM, Angela Kane